

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, August 4. 1709.

NOW shall not even the *Episcopal Dissenters* in *Scotland* be able to say, that I am going to raise Persecution upon them, and that I am stirring up either the Government in general, or the Magistrates in *Scotland* in particular against them, on the Occasion of their dissenting from the Establish'd Church of *Scotland*—— While yet I must say, that some among them, I do not say all, nor do I charge it upon them as a Body, for I am desirous of doing Justice to the publick Case in hand, without doing personal Injury to any Body, or exposing any Body but those that are guilty.

The Act, for Security of the true Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Government,

being the 6th Act of the last Parliament of *Scotland*, pass'd before the Ratification of the Treaty of Union of the two Kingdoms, and afterwards made Part of the said Treaty, and incorporated into the Body of the Act for the Ratification of the said Treaty—— And again pass'd by the Parliament of *England*——and (*pray, note it*) consented to and confirm'd by the Church of *England*, in the Assent of their Bishops then assembled in Parliament, and concurring to it in the Exemplification of the said Ratification of the Treaty sent back to *Scotland*, and remaining there upon Record, to witness against us for ever—— This Act, I say, establishes the Worship, Discipline, and Government of the Church of *Scotland* to continue

stane without any Alteration to the People of Scotland in all succeeding Generations— These are the Words of the Act.

I presume, I shall not be tax'd with Arrogance, and I am sure, I am justify'd by the Laws now of Britain, in saying, That the Government of Britain, as now establish'd by the Union—or call it, if you please, the Parliament of Britain, CANNOT, I say cannot, because they legally CANNOT, contravene one Article of this Union, and consequently of this Act, which is now become an inseparable Branch of it—I have said this as plainly and largely formerly, as Words can express it, and that when the Parliament was sitting, and which, if it had invaded their Authority, would have call'd me to an Account for it; and therefore I may say, did tacitly acknowledge it.

From hence then I infer, that all Manner of Innovations or Alterations obtruded upon the Scots, in the Worship, Discipline, or Government of the Church of Scotland—so far as it is authoriz'd or encourag'd by the Government or Parliament of Britain, so far it is an Invasion of the Articles of the Union, and they have no Authority to do it—They CANNOT do it— And this I lay down as a Fundamental.

In Pursuance of this Act of Union, Complaint being made to the Government of several Invasions made upon the Rights of the Church of Scotland, and in Defiance of the Discipline and Government of the said Church, by the Heretors obtruding, and the Episcopal Clergy intruding into Manse and vacant Churches—— Her Majesty, that no Charge might lie against the Sovereign or the Administration, has declar'd her Dislike, and disallowing of all such Intruding or Invasion, and publish'd her Royal Proclamation, dated . . . Anno 1708, forbidding and discharging the Intruding of Ministers into Churches and Manses—and requiring the Civil Magistrates to prevent the same, &c. as by the said Proclamation may appear.

Notwithstanding this Proclamation, and the sincere Resolution her Majesty has been pleas'd to express, of keeping inviolate every Article of the Union, yet we find so ill Use made of the Mercy and Lenity of

the QUEEN, and of the Neighbourly Backwardness in the Magistrates and People to prosecute to Severity the Laws in that Case, upon every Offender, as is before noted——That on the contrary, they are not only intruding still into Churches and Manses, setting up Innovations in Worship and Remissness of Discipline in the said Church—but also labouring by secret Rumours, false Reports, unjust Suggestions and Insinuations, to persuade the People, that these Innovations are made by the Knowledge, with the Consent and Authority of the QUEEN; than which, nothing is more scandalously false.

I shall first prove the Matter of Fact, that such Intrusions into Churches, &c. and Innovations in Worship are now attempted, and then shall prove the Attempt to make the Nation believe, the Government approves of it; and shall at last endeavour to convince all it may concern, that it is a malicious false Suggestion, mischievous in its Design, and scandalous upon the QUEEN and Government.

And first for the Fact—— I refer to the following Account just now transmitted me from Edinburgh, and attested under such Authority, as leaves no Room for the most cavilling Enemy, to question the Truth of it.

S I R,

I know you will be very well satisfy'd to hear, that our Patent for the Society in Scotland for propagating Christian Knowledge is expedited, for I know, you are a Well wisher to that pious Design, and will promote it to your Power; for which Reason I send you here inclos'd a Copy of, which you may peruse, and communicate it as you think fit: Having this Occasion, I think it not amiss also to tell you, that within these few Weeks, Stewart of Gairnally, who has purchased the Estate of Balmamoan in Angus-shire, within the Paroch of Carraldstoun, the Church whereof has been deserted these several Years of the Episcopal Incumbent, has set up the English Service therein, and it's said, is about to buy Organs, to compleat the Harmony of the Worship. This is a palpable Inroad upon our Church, and her reserv'd Rights, and I am afraid, the Devisers of such new Methods here are not so much act'd with Zeal to that

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Form of Worship, as with Disaffection to the Government, and a Desire to put us in Disorder: I am perswaded, our Gracious Queen will not approve of such Inroachments, not only to intrude against Law into a vacant Church, contrary to her Majesty's gracious Proclamation, but to introduce into our Establish'd Church a Form of Worship not approv'd by it. Great Pains have been taken here to make the People believe, that these Things are done by the Authority and Encouragement of the Government, a Thing our People are too apt to believe, and are full of Fears about. And the Enemies of the present Establishment here are never idle, and do all they can to alienate Peoples Minds from the Union, by spreading Reports of their bringing in the English Ceremonies into our Church, and it was actually put in our publick Prints, that the Abbey-Church was order'd to be repair'd for that End; yea, some at Aberdeen had the Boldness to draw up

an Address to the QUEEN for allowing the same there. But our Gracious QUEEN and her Wise Officers of State foresaw the Consequences thereof, and discourag'd such Attempts, and Letters were sent by her Majesty's Direction, shewing that there was no Encouragement given for these Things.

Your most humble Servant, &c.

Here is Invasion and Innovation both absolutely against the Union, and the Design of all is to possess the People with Apprehensions, that the QUEEN and the Government are the Encouragers of it, and give them Authority to do it; thus the Fact is prov'd.

Now to prove, that the QUEEN does not encourage these People; the best Way I see to prove this, is to shew, that the QUEEN has no Design or Desire, to have it so. And this I refer to my next.

MISCELLANEA.

AND what shall we say now to our Heroe of the North, of whose Affairs I took upon me to be so true a Prophet formerly, as to tell you, his Piper would lead him such a Dance, asking Pardon for the Pun, as that he should have enough to do to get back again.

Now pray, Gentlemen, do not take me for a Conjuror; a small Skill of Divining will serve to make such a Piece of Prophecy, the Nature of the Thing tells it, and let the News go which way it will, I am perswaded, the Predictions, I have formerly made of the Person we now speak of, will all come to pass.

1. That he has set up a Thing that he calls a King, but he shall never see him acknowledg'd to be King of Poland.
2. That he is pursuing a Conquest that he can never finish—And if he could finish, he could not keep.
3. That he shall teach his Enemy to beat him.
4. That he shall never end this War with Honour.

I do own my self to be one of those that are not fully perswaded of the Truth of the Battle, as now related between the *Swedes* and the *Muscovites*, I mean the Truth of the Manner, *Viz.* That the *Swedes* are entirely defeated; five Generals, the Prime Minister, and two Secretaries, &c. and the Prince of *Wirtemberg* taken, with all their Cannon and Baggage—and the King himself reported to be kill'd in the Action.

Nor—as much as I have said against the Conduct of that Prince, can I wish him among the Slain—Because he is, however, he may be now mistaken or misled by his own Ambition, a Protestant Prince, and, in another Cause which I foresee is not far off, may be a Bulwark of the Protestant Interest.

It is pity indeed to see, or hear of, such a fine Army as his was, when he march'd out of Saxony, so torn to pieces, as it has been, fighting with Hunger, Cold, Diseases, and over-power'd by Cowards——But as the present Case stands, we cannot be sorry for it.

I will not say, this Prince has been a Friend to *France*; for if he had thought fit have fallen into the Empire, at a Time when he was possess'd of one Electorate of it, he might have sav'd *France*—— But neither will I say, he has been a Friend to the Confederates, since the whole Body of them had been oblig'd to him at that Time, had he shewn himself on their Behalf, for the future Peace and Liberty of *Europe*.

Much less will I say, he has been a Friend to his own Glory or Interest—— What Laurels had he not wore, what Praises had he not merited from all *Europe*, with what Glory had he put a Stop to the Deluge of Blood, how to his Eternal Honour had he restor'd Peace and Liberty to *Europe*, had he but declar'd himself the Arbitrer of this bloody War at that Time, when both Parties sued to him for that Purpose—— Had he but spoke the Word, *France* must have quitted the *Rhine*, abandon'd *Spain*, and laid down his Arms—and he would have been glad to have had such a Pretence to have done it——All the jarring Interests of the Confederates must have agreed to submit to his Decision——And had he said to them in general, You shall be content with such Conditions, They would have disputed none of them.

How has he lost all these, and the Character of his own Conduct, in turning School-master, to teach the barbarous cowardly Nations the Art of Fighting, and opening a Door to the *Muscovites*, to become the Terror of *Europe*; who, being once instructed in the Art of War, may in Time over-run us all, as the wild Northern Nations once did the *Roman Empire*—— But of this hereafter.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

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